

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1465
INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS
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USDEL MBFR VIENNA
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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 BONN 15842

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MILI, MPOL, SALT, MBFR, NATO, US, GW, USSR
SUBJECT: GENERAL HARALD WUST'S SPEECH ON DEFENSE ISSUES
TO 31ST CIOR CONFERENCE

1. AT THE 31ST ANNUAL CIOR (INTERALLIED CONFEDERATION OF RESERVE OFFICERS) CONVENTION IN BONN, THE INSPECTOR GENERAL OF THE BUNDESWEHR, GENERAL HARALD WUST, DELIVERED WHAT HAS BEEN DESCRIBED AS A "NOTEWORTHY" STATEMENT OF FRG DEFENSE VIEWS, AND A "RATIONAL AND SOBER ASSESSMENT" OF CURRENT POLITICAL MILITARY REALITIES.

2. IN HIS SPEECH, WUST STATED THAT THE NATO STRATEGY OF "NON WAR BY DETERRENCE" IS AS INDISPENSIBLE AN OPERATIVE CONCEPT AS ONE OF "FORWARD DEFENSE". IN DEFENDING BOTH THE CONCEPTS OF DETERRENCE AND DETENTE, WUST SHARPLY CRITICIZED THE WARSAW PACT FOR SURPASSING THE DEGREE OF DETERRENCE REQUIRED FOR ITS OWN SELF-DEFENSE. FREE EUROPE MUST ADAPT ITSELF, HE SAID, TO THE REALITIES OF A REAL, GIVEN, AND "DISCERNIBLE THREAT."

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3. WUST INDICATED A WILLINGNESS TO ACCEPT A CERTAIN QUANTITATIVE INFERIORITY UNDER A CONCEPT WHICH IS BASED EXCLUSIVELY ON STRATEGIC DEFENSE. SUCH A RISK CAN ONLY BE RUN, HOWEVER, "IF AND WHEN NATO REMAINS CAPABLE OF SHOWING THE OFFENSIVE ADVERSARY CREDIBLE RISK TO HIS OWN EXISTENCE IN CONNECTION WITH AN ATTACK. AGAINST

THE BACKGROUND OF THE THREAT, THEREFORE, THERE IS NO ALTERNATIVE TO DETERRENCE EITHER IN THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC'S OR NATO MILITARY SECURITY POLICY."

4. ALTHOUGH HE VIEWS A SURPRISE ATTACK AS UNLIKELY, HE EXPRESSED DISAPPOINTMENT THAT NATO STILL HAD NOT EXPLORED THE POSSIBILITIES OF POLITICAL AND MILITARY CRISIS MANAGEMENT.

5. WUST EXPRESSED GRAVE CONCERN THAT NOTWITHSTANDING ALL THE GLOBAL AND REGIONAL NEGOTIATING EFFORTS OVER THE YEARS, THAT "NO MAJOR BREAKTHROUGH" TOWARD A DURABLE PEACE HAD BEEN ACHIEVED.

6. ONE CONTINUES TO GAIN THE IMPRESSION, WUST SAID, THAT IN MBFR THE SOVIET UNION CONTINUES TO SEEK CONTRACTUAL AGREEMENTS IN WHICH ITS SUPERIOR CONVENTIONAL MILITARY SUPERIORITY VIS-A-VIS THE WEST IS MAINTAINED.

7. IN DISCUSSING SALT, HE POINTED OUT THAT, SEEN FROM A EUROPEAN PERSPECTIVE, A NUCLEAR-STRATEGIC BALANCE COULD FURTHER INCREASE THE DISPARITIES IN EUROPE IN CONVENTIONAL, AS WELL AS IN THE GREY AREA SYSTEMS; "THIS IS THE PROBLEM FACED BY THE SECURITY POLICY OF OUR COUNTRY" AND THAT "OF ALL EUROPEAN COUNTRIES."

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8. IN ORDER TO OFFSET THIS IMBALANCE, "THERE MUST BE EITHER A BUILDING UP OF NATO'S INTERMEDIATE-RANGE POTENTIAL OR A POLITICAL ANCHORING OF THE SOVIET UNION TO ARMS CONTROL EFFORTS." THE LATTER WOULD BE PREFERABLE AS A "LOGICAL CONTINUATION OF SALT" AND WOULD COUNTERACT SOVIET ATTEMPTS AT NEGOTIATING STRATEGIC ISSUES OVER THE HEADS OF THE EUROPEAN POWERS WITH THE UNITED STATES ALONE.

9. EVEN IN A LIMITED WAR, WUST ADDED, THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC, BECAUSE OF ITS GEOGRAPHIC LOCATION AND DENSE POPULATION, WOULD BE IMMEDIATELY CONFRONTED BY THE WARSAW PACT AND SUFFER DISASTROUS CONSEQUENCES. THIS DEMANDS THAT SPECIAL EMPHASIS BE GIVEN TO THE ROLE OF CONVENTIONAL WEAPONS IN THE TOTAL STRATEGIC BALANCE.

10. IN A SURVEY OF THE POWER RATIOS BETWEEN NATO AND THE WARSAW PACT, WUST SEES AN APPROACHING EQUIVALENCE IN STRATEGIC WEAPONS, WITH THE UNITED STATES STILL HOLDING A QUALITATIVE ADVANTAGE. HE DOES NOT ENVISION THE SOVIET UNION, IN THE FORESEEABLE FUTURE, BEING ABLE TO MAKE UP THE TECHNOLOGICAL LAG IN THE EXISTING BALANCE OF STRATE-

GIC NUCLEAR WEAPONS.

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11. NATO, HOWEVER, HE FEELS IS "CLEARLY INFERIOR" TO THE
WARSAW PACT IN THE WHOLE RANGE OF "GREY AREA SYSTEMS",
WHICH ALTHOUGH NOT OF STRATEGIC CONCERN TO THE UNITED
STATES, POSE A SERIOUS THREAT TO THE WESTERN EUROPEAN
POWERS AND WHICH HE FEELS WARRANT PARTICULAR ATTENTION
IN THE STRATEGIC DIALOGUE.

12. WUST CRITICIZED NATO'S NUMERICAL INFERIORITY IN CON-
VENTIONAL FORCES AND STRESSED THE SOVIET UNION'S INCREAS-
ED READINESS CAPABILITY.

13. WUST CONCLUDED BY POINTING OUT THAT THE CURRENT
STATE OF DETENTE HAD NOT EVOLVED TO THE POINT WHERE IT
CAN FORM A BASIS FOR PERMANENT PEACE. ADEQUATE AND EF-
FECTIVE MILITARY FORCES, WITHIN A DEFENSE STRATEGY FRAME-
WORK, PROVIDES THE BEST MEANS OF ACHIEVING REALISTIC
NEGOTIABLE GOALS.

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14. COMMENT: WUST'S SPEECH BEFORE THE CIOR CONGRESS IN BONN, WHILE CONTAINING NOTHING DRAMATICALLY NEW, PROVIDES A CLEAR EXPOSITION OF FRG VIEWS ON MAJOR DEFENSE ISSUES.

15. THE CIOR CONGRESS WAS AN IDEAL FORUM FOR WUST'S PRESENTATION. HE WAS ADDRESSING NOT ONLY A GROUP OF RESERVE OFFICERS, BUT CITIZEN SOLDIERS WHO PLAY A CONSIDERABLE ROLE AS PARLIAMENTARIANS, CIVIL SERVANTS, AND BUSINESSMEN THROUGHOUT THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY. WUST'S HOPE IS THAT THEY WILL TAKE HIS MESSAGE HOME WITH THEM, THAT WHILE DISARMAMENT NEGOTIATIONS CONTINUE, THE NEED FOR A STRONG PREPARED NATO REMAINS. MEEHAN

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